



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

FAST FACTS

Our Mission

Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee is a global leader in emergency relief, rehabilitation, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by conflict and oppression.

IRC Belgium serves as a representative office for the IRC Global Network in relation to European Institutions. It provides support on European Commission policies and procedures to the other IRC affiliates in London, New York, Washington DC and our 25 international field offices. Other key activities for the Belgium office include: providing information and technical assistance; increasing the IRC's exposure among donors; collaborating with relevant institutions, organisations and networks on advocacy and policy issues related to conflicted affected populations. It also works at strengthening access to new private and public donors across Europe. IRC is independently registered in Belgium.

Our Work

At work in 25 countries, the IRC delivers lifesaving aid in emergencies, rebuilds shattered communities, cares for war-traumatized children, rehabilitates health care, water and sanitation systems, reunites separated families, restores lost livelihoods, establishes schools, trains teachers, strengthens the capacity of local organizations and supports civil society and good-governance initiatives. For refugees afforded sanctuary in the United States, IRC offices across the country provide a range of assistance aimed at helping new arrivals get settled, adjust and acquire the skills to become self-sufficient.

Committed to restoring dignity and self-reliance, the IRC is a global symbol of hope and renewal for those who have taken flight in search of freedom.

Our Impact

In 2006, IRC humanitarian aid programs restored hope and opportunity for more than 15 million conflict-affected individuals around the world. Here's a look at some of the IRC's recent achievements:

- Over 3 million people gained access to clean water and sanitation through our environmental health programs.
- Over 316,000 children, more than half girls, attended classes taught by IRC-trained teachers in schools rehabilitated or supported by the IRC.
- More than 10,800 teachers and educational personnel were trained by the IRC.
- More than 6 million people received primary health care and reproductive health services from IRC doctors, nurses, community health workers and IRC-supported clinics. Our health education programs, including HIV/AIDS prevention, reached some 5 million people.
- Nearly 140,000 survivors of sexual violence received counseling, medical care and psychosocial assistance. We provided prevention education to some 1,560,000 men, women and adolescents.
- IRC child protection teams reunited over 2,400 separated children and former child soldiers with their families and relatives and provided specialized care for an additional 9,300 vulnerable children and adolescents.
- In the United States, the IRC helped 20,400 refugees and asylees settle into their homes, schools and communities and move toward economic independence. IRC programs provided technical assistance and support to self-help organizations within refugee communities.

Our Ratings and Efficiency

The IRC is consistently awarded high marks by charity watchdog groups and respected publications for the efficient use of its financial support and the effectiveness of its work. Of every €1 the IRC spends, 90¢ goes to programs and services that directly benefit refugees and war-affected populations.